

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SIL-01 LAB-06 EB-11 COME-00

DRC-01 /150 W

----- 024216

R 032113Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3467

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINGSTON 4097

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JM

SUBJECT: PM SPEAKS OUT ON SOCIAL INDISCIPLINE

1. SMARTING FROM HIS LACK OF IMPACT ON THE GENERAL INDISCIPLINE IN JAMAICAN SOCIETY, WHICH WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY LAST WEEKEND'S ELECTRIC POWER STRIKE DURING WHICH NEARLY THE WHOLE ISLAND WAS WITHOUT ELECTRIC POWER ON NOVEMBER 24 DUE TO A DISPUTE OVER THE OFFICE AMENITIES OF A JPS SUPERVISOR, THE PRIME MINISTER GAVE A 15 MINUTE TELEVISED LECTURE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF WORK AND DISCIPLINE IN SOCIETY ON SUNDAY EVENING. THOUGH MANY WERE ANTICIPATING THAT THE SPEECH WOULD BE A STINGING CRITICISM OF THE OPPOSITION TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S PROGRAMS WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE OPPOSITION AND OPPOSITION-AFFILIATED TRADE UNION, THE SPEECH TURNED OUT TO BE MERELY AN OUTLINE OF THE LONG-AWAITED INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS LAW AND A STRONG EXHORTATION TO JAMAICANS TO WORK HARDER

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2. THE PM ANNOUNCED THAT THE DRAFTING OF A NEW

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS LAW HAS BEGUN AND THAT THE GOJ HOPES TO PRESENT IT TO PARLIAMENT IN EARLY JANUARY, FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH BOTH INDUSTRY AND LABOR. ACCORDING TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OUTLINE, THE NEW LAW WOULD IN THE FIRST INSTANCE PROVIDE A MECHANISM WHEREBY DISPUTES IN ESSENTIAL SERVICES - PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CERTAIN KEY INDUSTRIES - COULD BE SETTLED QUICKLY BY PERMANENT ARBITRATORS. IT WOULD ALSO PROVIDE A MECHANISM FOR THE REHIRING OF WRONGFULLY DISMISSED EMPLOYEES.

3. ON THE EXHORTATION SIDE, THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT NO COUNTRY COULD DEVELOP WITHOUT A FIRM COMMITMENT OF ALL OF ITS PEOPLE TO HARD WORK AND COMMON GOALS. HE DEPLORED THE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE "CHRISTMAS WORK" PROGRAM AND PROMISED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD GET ITS MONEY'S WORTH THIS YEAR. IN AN ASIDE, THE PRIME MINISTER COMPLIMENTED THE WORKERS AT GOODYEAR FOR PERSISTING IN THE FACE OF THE BLACKOUT AND ACHIEVING PRODUCTION GOALS.

4. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH MANLEY WAS HIS USUAL CONFIDENT, ARTICULATE SELF THERE WAS LITTLE FIGHTING SPIRIT IN THE SPEECH, PERHAPS THE RESULT OF AN EFFORT TO PROJECT A NON-PARTISAN IMAGE. BERKLEY

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